Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 29 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 30 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 28 Mar 2024 at 11:13

Confidence: High for showery conditions on Friday then mainly dry from Saturday onwards but confidence decreasing through the weekend so please keep up to date with the forecast.

Headline for Friday 29 Mar 2024: Showers developing, some heavy in the afternoon and wintry on the tops. Cold and breezy at height.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 29 Mar 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Sleet	Light snow	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
90%	70%	30%	30%	50%	60%	60%	30%

Forecast for Friday 29 Mar 2024

Weather: Rain and summit snow clearing overnight. A dry and bright start but cloud increasing through the morning with showers breaking out, falling as sleet or snow above 700m. Some showers in the afternoon could be heavy with hail and a small chance of lightning. Becoming dry with clear spells in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%. Cloud will come and go from the summits at times.

Low cloud and visibility: Patchy cloud and fog mainly above 700m but locally down to 400m in showers. Outside of low cloud, visibility mainly good, reducing to a few km or less in showers.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 29 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	12/16 SW	28/36 SW	23/29 SW	21/28 S	25/34 S	23/32 S	24/31 S	29/37 S	29/38 S
600	10/15 SW	24/32 SW	19/25 SW	18/25 S	22/32 S	21/29 S	20/28 S	25/35 S	25/36 S
300	5/11 SW	10/26 SW	7/20 SW	8/21 S	12/27 S	10/24 S	9/22 S	11/27 S	11/28 S
Valley	3/8 SW	12/26 SW	6/18 SW	10/20 S	12/24 S	10/20 S	7/17 S	12/24 S	12/26 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	0/-4	-0/-8	-1/-7	0/-6	1/-6	2/-4	1/-5	1/-6	1/-6
600	2/-2	2/-5	1/-4	2/-3	3/-2	4/-1	3/-2	3/-3	3/-3
300	4/2	4/0	3/0	5/2	6/2	7/4	6/3	5/2	5/1
Valley	6/5	6/3	6/4	8/5	9/6	9/6	8/6	8/5	8/4
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	800m	900m	1000m	1000m	1100m	1100m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold as you gain height with a significant wind chill on the tops, especially in the wintry showers.

Forecast for Saturday 30 Mar 2024

Weather: Clear spells and patchy mist overnight. This will clear during then morning then a few showers developing, wintry above 800m. Becoming dry with lengthening spells of sunshine in the afternoon then a dry, clear evening.

Maximum wind: Southerly 20mph gusts 30mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% at first then becoming 80%.

Low cloud and visibility: Areas of low cloud and fog above 500m at first, mainly over southern fells, gradually lifting. Otherwise mostly good visibility with patchy summit fog in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5C rising to 11C.
At 800m: Plus 2C rising to 4C.
Freezing level: 900m, rising above summits in afternoon.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 28 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 1220 Full report: Fresh snow fell overnight and this morning adding to that which fell on Wednesday. There is little snow below 700m with the main level being around 750m. Its average depth at 900m is approx 4cm; however actual cover varies from nothing at all on windswept areas, such as parts of the summit plateau, to drifts up to 30cm (although such depth is the exception). The greatest accumulations are in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep north facing aspects. The fresh snow is soft but was very close to freezing on the summit; conversely it was slowly thawing on south facing aspects catching the sun and below 800m. Once again, at the time of writing, further showers are forecast overnight which could fall as snow at altitude, so walkers heading for the highest peaks on Good Friday should expect, and be prepared to encounter, more snow than experienced and described here. In addition, it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for ice to form so, although little was seen today, walkers heading above the snowline on Friday should expect and be prepared to encounter some hard snow and ice. The main hazards encountered today were the slippery nature of the wet and soft snow covered ground especially when traversing rocks or pitched paths particularly in descent. The gusty nature of the wind necessitated concentration especially when on steep and exposed ground. Conversely, below the snowline some paths and rocks were dry. The strength of the wind at altitude combined with the temperature gradient (difference in temperature as one climbs) resulted in a marked contrast between the warmth of the valleys and the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) which was a chilly minus 10 degrees C just after midday. Thus full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Before it lifted, visibility was poor at times in the cloud at altitude, so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently when landmarks can't be seen is also essential. As mentioned, there is a possibility of encountering ice underfoot at altitude tomorrow, so those heading for the highest fells on Good Friday, should consider adding microspikes and walking poles to their rucksacks. On an optimistic note, hopefully sunglasses will also be required to lessen the glare from the snow covered ground. Anyone attempting traversing steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as the Helvellyn Edges, are strongly recommended to carry an ice axe and crampons or at least microspikes. The fact that these tools were not essential today is irrelevant owing to the distinct possibility of there being more snow and ice on Friday compared with today. Come properly equipped and enjoy, what may well be, the last throws of winter!! Today was my 778th ascent of Helvellyn for the National Park and my last as a Fell Top Assessor. It has been an honour to have had this job for the past 16 years. Thank you so much to everyone for your kind words both written and also given in person. The ground conditions' reports continue for this season until, and including, Bank Holiday Monday. In the meanwhile, may I wish you all many memorable, enjoyable and safe excursions into our wonderful fells and I look forward to hopefully meeting you out there! Kind Regards Jon. Temperature: minus 1.2 C Maximum wind speed 26.5 mph Wind chill: minus 9.8 C, Average wind speed: 14.0 mph.

Issued at: 1113 on Thu 28 Mar 2024

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